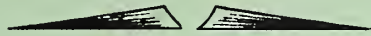




Urban District of Burnham-on-Sea



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st DECEMBER, 1966



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BURNHAM - ON - SEA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
WORKS, HEALTH AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE, 1966.

Chairman:

MR. R. F. TREGELLES.

Vice Chairman:

MR. A. T. MASON

MR. H. CAISLEY GROEN

MRS. C. KEEDWELL

MR. H. F. CLAPP

MR. T. T. LEWIS (Chairman of  
the Council)

MR. F. DUKE.

MR. T. F. EDMUNDS

MR. W. LIVERSIDGE

MR. P. GILES

MR. G. F. MASLEN

MRS. E. E. J. HERRING  
(Vice Chairman of the  
Council)

MR. W. T. PEPPERALL

MR. R. W. E. RIDD

MR. W. V. THOMAS

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF 1966.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. H. WATSON, M.B. B.Ch., B.A.O. D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer (Somerset C.C.):

CHRISTINE M. ROOKE, M.B. B.S.

Housing Officer and Assistant Public Health Inspector

H. F. ROBINSON,  
M.A.P.H.I.

Assistant Housing Officer:

C. A. BURNETT.



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1966

Tel: Bridgwater: 4147/8

Health Department,  
22 King Square,  
BRIDGWATER.

October, 1967.

To The Chairman and Members of the  
Burnham-on-Sea Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Urban District, and the work of the Public Health Department during the year 1966. The report is set out in the manner of previous years, so that comparison with former reports can easily be made.

Once again I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my grateful appreciation to the Members of the Council for the help and consideration which I have received and for the friendly co-operation extended to me by my fellow Officers.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

R. H. WATSON.

# SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

## General Statistics

Area (including foreshore)	2,246 acres
Population (census 1961)	10,020
Population (Registrar General's estimate) 1966	10,980
No. of inhabited houses on 31st December, 1966	3,650
Rateable value on 31st December, 1966.	£16,597
Sum represented by ld. rate on 31st December, 1966.	£1,651

## Extracts from VITAL STATISTICS for the year 1966.

### Live Births.

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	95	71	166
Illegitimate	4	4	8
	<u>99</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>174</u>
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population			15.84
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			4.59
Still Births			2
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births			11.36
Total live and still births			176
Infant Deaths (deaths of infants under one year of age)			5
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - total			2.873
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - legitimate			3.012
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births - illegitimate			nil
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)			22.99
Early Neo-natal Mortality (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)			17.24
Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			28.41
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)			Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births			Nil
<u>Deaths.</u>			
Total number of deaths			192
Death Rate per 1,000 population			17.48

## Births.

After allowing for inward and outward transfers the Registrar General's figures show that there were 174 births (99 boys and 75 girls) in the Urban District during 1966, being 23 births more than in 1965. Of these births 8 were illegitimate. This is 4.59 of the total live births, as compared with 5.29 in 1965.

The birth rate of any area is dependent upon the composition of the population in that area. Obviously a population with a high proportion of persons of child bearing age will have more births per 1,000 of the population than an area with an unduly large number of people in the older age groups. To enable the birth rates of different areas to be compared, the Registrar General provides a "Comparability Factor" for each Local Authority area, which renders the birth rate of each area comparable with that of a district the population of which is of standard age and sex distribution. The birth rate for the Urban District adjusted in this manner is increased from 15.84 to 19.00 per 1,000 of the population. The birth rate for England and Wales was 17.7.

Birth rate for the Urban District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Crude Birth Rate	15.53	13.56	14.98	14.00	15.84
Standardised Birth Rate	17.54	16.27	17.97	16.80	19.00
England and Wales	18.0	18.2	18.2	18.0	17.7

## Deaths.

The number of deaths registered in the Urban District during 1966 was 162. Of these 23 were deaths of non-residents and were transferred to the district in which the persons ordinarily resided. There were, on the other hand, 53 deaths of Urban District residents registered outside the District. The total corrected number of deaths assigned to the District was 192 (82 males and 110 females). This was 25 more than in the previous year, and gave a crude death rate of 17.48.

This crude death rate cannot be used to compare the mortality with that of other districts, as the populations of all areas are not similarly constituted as regards age and sex distribution. The Registrar General supplies an "Area Comparability Factor" and the crude death rate multiplied by this figure can then be compared with the death rate of the country as a whole, or with the mortality of any other local area. The corrected death rate so obtained was 11.88 per 1,000 of the population and this was compared with 11.7 for England and Wales.



Death rates for the Urban District and for England and Wales for the past five years were as follows:-

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Crude Death Rate	14.55	15.19	16.31	15.49	17.48
Standardised Death Rate	10.47	11.24	12.06	11.15	11.88
England and Wales	11.9	12.2	11.3	11.5	11.7

Of the 192 deaths, 145 occurred in people over the age of 65 years. 40 occurred in people in the productive age groups 15 to 64. Details of the latter are given in the following table:-

	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Total
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus.					1	1
Malignant neoplasm of breast				1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm of uterus				1	2	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms		1	1	2	4	8
Vascular lesions of the nervous system					3	3
Coronary disease and angina				2	8	10
Hypertension with heart disease			1			1
Other heart disease	1					1
Other circulatory disease		1			1	2
Pneumonia					1	1
Other disease of respiratory system					2	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases					1	2
Motor vehicle accidents	2					2
All other accidents		1		1		2
	4	3	2	7	24	40



The following table shows the causes of all deaths and sex distribution:-

Cause of Death		M	F	Total
All Causes		82	110	192
1.	Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	-	-	-
2.	Other forms of tuberculosis	-	-	-
3.	Syphilitic disease	-	1	1
4.	Diphtheria	-	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections	1	-	1
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8.	Measles	-	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm of stomach	1	4	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	6	1	7
12.	Malignant neoplasm of breast	-	7	7
13.	Malignant neoplasm of uterus	-	3	3
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	9	15
15.	Leukemia, leukaemia	-	2	2
16.	Diabetes	-	1	-
17.	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	10	13	28
18.	Coronary disease and angina	20	21	41
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	1	2
20.	Other heart disease	7	12	19
21.	Other circulatory disease	8	15	23
22.	Influenza	1	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	2	4	6
24.	Bronchitis	6	-	6
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	1	3	4
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
29.	Hypertrophy of prostate	1	-	1
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations	2	-	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	4	8
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	2	1	3
34.	All other accidents	2	1	3
35.	Suicide	-	1	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-

### Cancer Mortality.

The number of deaths of Urban District residents from cancer was 37 (males 13, females 24). This was 1 more than the previous year. Cancer deaths constituted 19.3% of the total deaths during the year.

The following table shows the localisation of the disease in the 37 cases:-

Localisation	Number of Deaths			
	Male	Female	Total	1965
Stomach	1	4	5	2
Lung, Bronchus	6	1	7	8
Breast	-	7	7	2
Uterus	-	3	3	3
Other and unspecified organs	6	9	15	21
Total	13	24	37	36

### Cancer of the Uterus.

The County Council have now started a scheme whereby cervical smears can be taken with a view to preventing cancer of the womb. The tests are taken by family doctors and are examined at Sungrove Park Hospital.

### Cancer of the Lung.

The ages at which deaths from lung cancer occurred during the last five years is detailed in the following table:-

	Under 15	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	Over 65	Total
1962	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2
1963	-	-	-	-	1	1	7	9
1964	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	4
1965	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	8
1966	-	-	-	-	-	1	6	7

### Deaths from Heart Diseases.

Of 192 deaths, heart disease caused 62 (males 28, females 34). It represented 32.27% of the total deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a death rate of 5.6 per 1,000 of the population.

### Infantile Mortality.

5 infants under one year of age died during the year. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 28.73 per 1,000 of all live births, while the corresponding rate for England and Wales was 19.0.

The following table shows the causes of deaths:-

Cause of death	Under 1 week	1-4 weeks	1-6 mnths	6-12 mnths	Total under 1 year
Prematurity	2				2
Metabolic acidosis	-	-	1	-	1
Cerebral anoxia	1	-	-	-	1
Cardiac failure	-	1	-	-	1

### Population.

The estimated population of the Urban District as at June, 1966, was 10,980 which shows an increase of 200 on the previous year. It is interesting to note population changes and the following table illustrates the trend since 1956:-

Year	Population	Estimated Increase	Natural Increase
1956	9,690	60	-6
1957	9,720	30	-8
1958	9,710	-10	11
1959	9,790	80	16
1960	10,020	230	-18
1961	9,890	-130	-5
1962	10,240	350	22
1963	10,400	160	-17
1964	10,480	80	5
1965	10,780	300	-16
1966	10,980	200	-18

AND CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

The following table sets out the cases of notifiable diseases that occurred in the Urban District during 1966.

The table is drawn up after making the necessary corrections in diagnosis by either the practitioners or the Medical Officers at the Isolation Hospitals:-

Disease	under 1 year	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65 and over	Age Unknown	Total
Measles	2	9	7	17	14	51	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	103
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Enteric and Paratyphoid Fever	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Total	4	9	7	17	14	54	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	2	110

During the previous year 124 cases of notifiable diseases were notified.

## Immunisation.

### Diphtheria.

No cases of diphtheria were notified.

The following table shows the number of children who completed a course of diphtheria immunisation during the year. It is a most satisfactory immunisation state.

Diphtheria Immunisation	Children born in the years						Total
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-62	Others under 16	
Primary	35	81	3	2	5	1	127
Reinforcing	-	23	90	9	92	60	274
Total	35	104	93	11	97	61	401

### Acute Poliomyelitis.

No cases were notified.

### Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

The following tables show the number of persons who received a course of vaccination.

Polio Vaccination	Children born in the years						Total
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-62	Others Under 16	
Primary	28	70	9	2	9	1	119
Reinforcing	-	3	21	5	91	17	137
Total	28	73	30	7	100	18	256

### Measles.

105 cases were notified. Treatment by modern drugs has done much to reduce the severity of the common complications of this highly infectious disease. Nevertheless despite its triviality measles consumes a considerable proportion of doctors' working time in epidemic years, and for this reason alone its prevention would greatly help the family doctor. Investigations are at present being carried out to find an effective and a safe vaccine for the eradication of this disease.

### Scarlet Fever.

The number of confirmed cases was 3.



### Vaccination Against Smallpox.

The number of persons vaccinated or revaccination during the year was 84 as compared with 106 in the previous year.

Smallpox Vaccination	0-3 mths	4-6 mths	7-9 mths	10-12 mths	1 year	2-4 years	5-15 years	Total
Primary	-	1	2	6	42	17	6	74
Reinforcing	-	-	-	-	-	1	9	10
Total	-	1	2	6	42	18	15	84

Vaccination is now voluntary, but the value of individual vaccination is in my opinion, undiminished and I would advise all parents to have their children vaccinated, preferably during the second year of life.

### Tetanus Immunisation.

Tetanus immunisation is now combined with diphtheria immunisation almost as a routine and practically all infants receiving primary immunisation and all school children receiving booster injections are offered a combined vaccine.

The number of children who completed a full course of primary immunisation in the year ended 31st December, 1966, was as follows:-

Tetanus Immunisation	Children born in the years					Others under 16	Total
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1959-62		
Primary	35	81	3	2	6	20	147
Reinforcing	-	23	90	9	92	81	295
Total	35	104	93	11	98	101	442

### Tuberculosis.

No cases were notified during the year.

### B. C. G. Vaccination.

In order to raise the immunity of school leavers to tuberculosis, vaccination with B. C. G. vaccine was offered to all children between the ages of 13 and 14 years attending schools in the 12-16 Street Divisional Area. 676 accepted the offer and received a preliminary skin test, the 'Heaf Test', to determine whether they had in fact already experienced some infection with tuberculosis. 603 of the 676 were found to be susceptible and 599 were vaccinated with the B.C.G. vaccine.

### Food Poisoning.

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year. The patient concerned worked with young children and was excluded from work until it was established that she was free from infection.



## GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES.

### Laboratory Facilities.

Pathological specimens are sent to the laboratory at Musgrove Park hospital, which forms part of the Public Health Service. Results of investigations are available with the minimum of delay and there is good liaison between the laboratory personnel and the field workers in the Public Health Department.

Examinations carried out during the year included 10 water samples and 18 ice cream samples.

### Home Help Service.

This service is provided by the County Council, with local administration by the Home Help Organiser, with an office at the Health Centre, Mount Street, Bridgwater.

The Home Helps have proved of very considerable value and much assistance was given to needy cases. During the year 149 cases received assistance.

These included the following types of cases:-

Post and Pre Natal	1
Maternity	6
Old age and infirmity	101
Tuberculosis	1
Chronic Sick	25
Post Operation	5
Emergency illness	3
Other cases	7

In many cases assisted, the patient or other members of the family would have been unable to remain at home, were it not for the Home Help Service.

In addition to the normal service, arrangements have been made for women to sit up with seriously ill cases where alternative arrangements cannot be made.

The number of Home Helps at 31.12.66 were as follows:-

Full time	5
Part time	22

### Welfare of Old People.

The Council are now assisting the W.V.S. to provide meals on wheels for old people, and this worthwhile service is much appreciated by the recipients. An average of 48 meals per week are distributed.

### National Assistance Act, 1948 - Section 47.

A number of cases were assisted through informal action, and in no case was it necessary for the Council to take statutory action to secure the admission of an old person to suitable accommodation.

# SANITARY CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

## Housing.

The number of permanent dwellings in the Urban District	3,992
The number of permanent dwellings owned by the Local Authority	658
Number of houses declared unfit under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957.	-
Number of houses closed as a result of an undertaking given by the owner or following the issue of Closing Orders.	4
Number of houses made fit during the year	29

	Houses/flats erected during the year		Houses in course of erection	
	For slum clearance	For other purposes	For slum clearance	For other purposes
Local Authority	-	31	-	5
Private Enterprise	-	120	-	106
Total	-	151		111

In the period from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December, 1945 a total of 1,496 houses have been built. These were made up of 548 by the Local Authority and 948 by Private Enterprise.

At the end of the year there were 245 applicants for Council houses.

## Water Supplies.

The mains water supply was satisfactory both as to quality and quantity. The water is treated by chlorination and bacteriological tests were carried out on the treated water on 10 occasions, all of which gave excellent results.

## Sewage Disposal.

As mentioned in previous reports, the condition of the main sewerage system of the District gives rise to anxiety. Emergency repairs have been taken by the Council to repair the main sewer at certain points which were known to be in a critical state. The sewers generally are overloaded and are frequently surcharged.

The Council's proposals for re-sewering the District and for the treatment of the effluent before discharge into the River Brue have been submitted to the Ministry for approval in principle. The present sewerage system is most unsatisfactory one and it is to be hoped that the Council will be able to proceed with their proposals as soon as possible.

### Refuse Disposal.

Domestic refuse is removed by the Council on a weekly collection. The Council have agreed with Bridgewater Rural District Council for the joint use of the latter Council's tip at Puriton. Here refuse is tipped into a large claypit and is covered as much as possible. The tip being situated well out into the country and generally little or no nuisance arises.

### Camping Sites.

No licences have been issued for stationing of individual movable dwellings. Five camping sites have been licenced. Sanitary conditions remain satisfactory. The existing sites have been reasonably well conducted during the holiday season.

### Common Lodging Houses.

There are no registered Common Lodging Houses in the Urban District.

### Ice Cream.

The number of premises registered for manufacture and sale 1

For retail only 62

18 samples were taken during the year, the results being as follows:-

9 samples were placed in Provisional Grade 1	1
7 samples were placed in Provisional Grade 2	2
2 samples were placed in Provisional Grade 3	3

Samples which fall into grades 1 and 2 are considered to be satisfactory. Samples reported in grade 3 are followed by inspection, and where indicated advice is given on measures necessary to improve the quality of the product.

### Slaughterhouses.

Ample facilities for slaughtering are available at the abattoir at Weston-Super-Mare, and consequently there are no licensed slaughterhouses in the Urban District.

### Premises where Food is prepared.

No statutory action was taken regarding enforcement of the provision of the Food and Drugs Act, and co-operation from food traders has continued to be good and improvements have been made to premises and equipment.

### Knackers Yard.

The one knacker yard in the Urban District is regularly inspected and a satisfactory standard is maintained.

### Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Routine inspections of premises under the above named Regulations have continued. Shopkeepers have been interested in the production and sale of food under hygienic conditions and improvements have been achieved by direct discussion rather than by statutory action such as the service of notices under the Regulations.

The number of food premises in the Urban District which are subject to these Regulations is 108, and these have been classified in the following categories, each business being classified by its main trade.

Schedule of Premises.

Trade Category.	Total	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 16. (Provision of Wash Basins)	Number to which Reg. 19 applies. (Provision of Sinks).	Number fitted to comply with Reg. 19.
Butchers' and fresh meat shops.	13	13	13	13
Bakers and Confectioners	8	8	6	6
Fried Fish Shops	3	3	3	3
Groceries and Provisions	43	43	4	4
Cafes, Restaurants, Canteens & Beach Stalls.	23	21	21	20
Hotels and Public Houses	18	18	10	10
Totals	108	106	57	56

# FACTORIES ACT 1961.

The following particulars indicate the action taken under Part I of the Factories Act, 1961:-

	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	24	19		
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	83	42		
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)				
<b>Total</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>61</b>		

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness	7	7			
Overcrowding (S.2)					
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient					
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	2		1	
(c) Not separate for women					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork).					
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Nil</b>



Part VIII

(Sections 133 and 134)

	Section 133			Section 134		
	No. of out- workers in August. list required by Section 133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecu- tions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwhole- some premises	Notices Served	Prose- ctions
Wearing apparel: making etc., Cleaning and Washing.	2	-	-	-	-	-





